

## Cats are digging in to my trash

**Explanation:** Cats can be scavengers when looking for food.

### Quick Solutions:

- Place a tight lid on your trash can. Exposed trash bags will attract wildlife as well rodents.

## There are cat paw prints on my car

**Explanation:** Cats like to perch on high ground.

### Quick Solutions:

- Gradually move cats' shelters and feeding stations away to discourage cats from climbing on cars.
- Purchase a car cover
- Use deterrents listed in the next section



**You can find local resources and help at our websites:**

[www.feralcatfocus.org](http://www.feralcatfocus.org)

[www.operationpets.org](http://www.operationpets.org)

[http://landscaping.about.com/od/pestcontrol/a/cat\\_repellents.htm](http://landscaping.about.com/od/pestcontrol/a/cat_repellents.htm)

[www.alleycat.org/ColonyCare](http://www.alleycat.org/ColonyCare)

## Cats are digging in my garden

**Explanation:** It is a cats natural instinct to dig and deposit in soft or loose soil, moss, mulch, or sand.

### Quick Solutions:

- **Scatter fresh orange and lemon peels or spray with citrus-scented fragrances.** Coffee grounds, vinegar, pipe tobacco, or oil of lavender, lemon-grass, citronella, or eucalyptus also deter cats.
- **Plant the herb rue** to repel cats, or sprinkle dried rue over the garden.
- **Use plastic carpet runners** spike-side up, covered lightly in soil. They can be found at local hardware or office supply stores. Or, set chicken wire firmly into the dirt with sharp edges rolled under.
- **Artfully arrange branches** in a lattice-type pattern or wooden or plastic lattice fencing material over soil.

You can disguise these by planting flowers and seeds in the openings. You can also try embedding wooden chopsticks, pinecones, or sticks with dull points deep into the soil with the tops exposed eight inches apart.

- **Obtain Cat Scat™**, a nonchemical cat and wildlife repellent consisting of plastic mats that are cut into smaller pieces and pressed into the soil. Each mat has flexible plastic spikes that are harmless to cats and other animals, but discourage digging. Available at [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com).
- **Cover exposed ground in flower beds** with large, attractive river rocks to prevent cats from digging. (They have the added benefit of deterring weeds.)
- **Establish a litter box** by tilling the soil or placing sand in an out-of-the-way spot in your yard. Keep it clean and free of deposits.

# Keeping Cats Out of the Yards and Gardens



So, you're seeing cats in your yard...

Like all animals, feral cats make their home where they find shelter and food, often in close proximity to humans.

We understand that not everyone enjoys having cats in their yards, and these simple tips will help you divert outdoor cats away from certain areas.

Because feral cats are not socialized and totally un-adoptable, they do not belong in animal shelters. Instead, feral cats should be neutered, vaccinated, and returned to their outdoor home.

### This is called:

Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return or (TNVR)

This is an effective and humane way to stabilize feral cat populations by reducing the amount of kittens born, and helps to decrease nuisance complaints.

## Cats are yowling, fighting, spraying, roaming, and having kittens

**Explanation:** These are all mating behaviors displayed by cats who have not been spayed and neutered, and they will breed prolifically.

### Quick Solutions:

- **Spaying or neutering and vaccinating the cats will stop these behaviors.** Male cats will no longer compete and fight, spray, and roam. Females will stop yowling and producing kittens. After sterilization, hormones leave their system within three weeks and the behaviors usually stop entirely.
- **To combat the urine smell, spray the area** thoroughly with white vinegar or with products that use natural enzymes to combat the smell, such as Nature's Miracle®, Fizzion Pet Stain & Odor Remover, or Simple, Solution® available at pet supply stores.



## Cats are lounging in my yard or on my porch

**Explanation:** Cats are territorial and will remain close to their food source.

### Quick Solutions:

- **Apply cat repellent** fragrances liberally around the edges of the yard, the tops of fences, and on any favorite digging areas or plants.
- **Install an ultrasonic animal repellent** or a motion activated water sprinkler, such as CatStop™ or the ScareCrow™. Available at [www.contech-inc.com](http://www.contech-inc.com).



## Cats are sleeping under my porch or in my shed

**Explanation:** The cats are looking for a dry, warm shelter away from the elements.

### Quick Solutions:

- **Physically block or seal the location the cats are entering with chicken wire or lattice** once you are certain the cats are not inside. Be sure to search for kittens before confirming that the cats have left—especially during spring and summer, prime kitten season.
- **Provide a shelter** (similar to a small doghouse). Or, if they are feral and part of a nearby managed colony, ask the caregiver to provide a shelter for the cats to keep them on their own property. Shelters should be hidden to keep the cats safe, and placing them in secluded areas can help guide the cats away from unwanted areas.

## Feeding the cats attracts insects and wildlife

**Explanation:** Cats are to be fed under proper guidelines.

Leaving food out can attract other animals

### Quick Solutions:

- **Keep the feeding area neat** and free of leftover food and trash.
- **Feed cats at the same designated time each day:**

*"Caregivers may feed community cats outside of their personal dwellings for limited periods of time. Such caregivers should ensure food is not available around the clock nor allowed to scatter on the ground so as to attract other animals. If practicable, it is advised that cats be fed from dawn to dusk."*